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Lincoln Diaz-Balart M.C.
PRSRT STD



CONGRESSMAN

LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

SERVING FLORIDA'S TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

CONSTITUENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

My staff is dedicated to being as accessible as possible. Thus, we offer weekly "outreach" hours. Residents of Florida's 21st District are welcome to meet with a member of my staff to discuss any problems you may have with a federal agency.



First Wednesday of every month:

Pembroke Pines
Southwest Regional Library
16835 Sheridan Street
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Second Wednesday of every month:

Sweetwater City Hall
500 S.W. 109th Avenue
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Third Wednesday of every month:

Miami Springs City Hall
201 Westward Drive
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fourth Wednesday of every month:

Miami Lakes Town Hall
6853 Main Street
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

United States Congress

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer you a mid-year report on legislative actions and accomplishments that I believe are of interest.

The last few months have been particularly busy in Washington. The House of Representatives has passed many important legislative initiatives. Transportation legislation was passed that will bring tens of millions of additional dollars into our region to support local transit. In addition, Miami-Dade and Broward Counties will now be able to directly apply for additional homeland security funding because of legislation that I had the privilege to help shape and pass. On the economic front, Florida continues to enjoy the benefits of pro-growth policies as our state remains a national leader in job creation. Much progress has been made in advancing our priorities and in securing federal funding for critical local projects.

It is an honor for me to represent the people of South Florida and to have the opportunity to work on your behalf in Congress. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Cordially,

Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Working for FLORIDA



in Washington

CONSTITUENT SERVICES



ASSISTANCE WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES. Sometimes questions may arise regarding your access to federal services and benefits. My staff is available to help you find the answers you need. We can contact the appropriate agency to inquire about the cause of your problem and attempt to find a solution.



MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATIONS. To receive an appointment to a military academy you must have a congressional nomination from your home-state Senator or from the Representative for the district where you reside. To apply for a nomination, you must submit a written request for nomination and complete a nomination application form by November 1 of your senior year in high school. The selection process is non-partisan and based on merit.



WASHINGTON, DC TOURS. My staff can help make your trip to Washington, D.C. memorable by helping to arrange tours of federal government buildings and providing information on some of our capital's most popular attractions. All tours are limited in space, so please contact us early when planning your trip.



FLAG REQUESTS. U.S. flags can be flown over the Capitol to commemorate a special occasion or to honor someone. To ensure timely receipt, you should place your order one month in advance.

District Office:

8525 Northwest 53rd Terrace
Suite 102
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phone: 305-470-8555
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Washington, DC Office:

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Washington, DC 20515
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fax: 202-225-8576

Office hours are
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday.



Transportation

South Florida continues to experience substantial population growth, and as a result our transportation systems are in urgent need of additional funding for improvements and expansion. With my support, Congress recently passed HR 3, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which authorizes funding for federal highway, public transportation, highway safety and motor carrier safety programs for the next five years. This bill will bring a substantial increase in federal funding to the state of Florida over the next five years and provides vital funding for important regional transportation projects.

I was pleased to secure more than \$26.7 million in funding for specific projects to help alleviate severe traffic congestion and increase the safety of our roadways, while enhancing the overall quality of life for Miami-Dade and Broward County residents. In addition, I helped secure language in the legislation for a \$100 million offset for the new Metrorail connection from the Miami Intermodal Center to the Earlington Heights station.



Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart with other members of the Congressional delegation during the press conference to announce new federal funding for South Florida transportation projects.

Homeland Security Funding

In the wake of the recent terror attacks in London, there is an even more urgent need to make certain our rail transit systems have the necessary funding available to support their security efforts. South Florida faces unique security challenges, and will greatly benefit from increased federal funding to help make rail travel more secure for people who live and travel throughout the region. With this need in mind, I worked to shape recent legislation that allows for large population centers, including Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, to apply for grants directly from the Department of Homeland Security. The Tri-County Commuter Rail and the Miami Dade Transportation Authority recently received \$1.8 million in federal homeland security funding.

Small Business and the Economy

Small businesses are leading the way in the tremendous job creation taking place in America and throughout South Florida. The economy continues to grow and prosper due, in large part, to the imagination and hard work of workers and entrepreneurs. Over the past year, new job creation has continued to surge in Florida. The state has gained more than 228,000 new jobs – posting the second largest year to year increase of the fifty states. I remain firmly committed to supporting legislation that helps small businesses succeed and continue to provide job opportunities for those looking for employment. Recently, I helped pass legislation to allow small businesses to band together through associations and purchase quality health care for workers and their families at a lower cost – helping employers reduce their health insurance costs while helping to offer uninsured working families access to affordable health care.



Congressman Diaz-Balart and members of the South Florida Manufacturers Association during one of their periodic gatherings to discuss the impact of legislation on the manufacturing industry and the progress of economic development in South Florida.

Medicare

The costs associated with healthcare and prescription drugs continue to rise, placing an undue burden on many seniors in South Florida. With my support, Congress passed the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. Currently, prescription drug discount cards are available that help seniors save 10 to 25 percent on their prescription drug costs.

This fall, enrollment will begin for the full benefit package.

- Seniors with incomes of up to \$10,294 (\$13,250 per couple), will pay only \$1 for generic prescriptions and \$3 for brand name medicines.
- Those with incomes of up to \$13,896.90 (\$17,887.50 per couple), will pay only \$2 for generic medications and \$5 for brand names.
- Seniors with incomes of up to \$15,441, (\$19,875 per couple) will pay only a minimal monthly premium—an initial deductible of \$50, and then only 15% of their prescription drug costs up to \$3,600, after which they will only pay \$2 for generic drugs, \$5 for brand names.
- All other seniors will have the option of paying a \$250 deductible, after which 75% of their first \$2,250 in expenses will be paid for by Medicare. After \$3,600 in out of pocket costs, the program will pay almost all their drug expenses.

For more information about the new Medicare benefits, please go online to www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-Medicare.

Legislative and Budget Process Subcommittee of the House Rules Committee

As Congress works on the annual appropriations cycle, we must take a close look at how the federal government determines its budget, as well as where and how taxpayer dollars are spent. As Chairman of the Rules Committee's Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, I recently convened a hearing to examine federal budgeting processes with the goal of improving them. I remain committed to greater fiscal discipline, while ensuring that increases for security both at home and abroad are planned and can be effectively included in future budgets.



Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Alcee Hastings during a hearing of the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process on July 27, 2005.

Faithfully Serving Florida's Twenty-First District